



# The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.WinnipegARC.org>

April 2020

Facebook [Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club - VE4BB](#) Twitter [@ve4bbwarc](#)

VE4BB

## An "On Air" 2 Meter "Social Distance" Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: **VE4WPG Repeater! 147.390+ (tone 127.3)**

In view of the current "Social Distancing" measures you can stay "2 meters" apart and attend WARC's 2 meter "On Air" meeting on the VE4WPG repeater. (Thanks to MRS)

### Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline April 30, 2020

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**  
 May 12, 2020 - **TBA Stay Tuned for updates**  
 June 9, 2020 - **TBA & Election Night**  
 September 8, 2020 - Welcome Back

ARES: Tuesday, April 21 2020  
 Will be **on-line** thru a meeting platform being investigated by the Executive, Winnipeg ARES members will be advised by e-mail

Other: **The WARC 2020 Hamfest, Field Day, the Manitoba Marathon, and many more have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

### WARC Executive for 2019-2020...

President	John Romanec	ve4vjr@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	Drew Kwartel	drewk1166@gmail.com
Treasurer	David Latour	ve4dla@gmail.com
Secretary	Dave Terrick	dave.terricket@gmail.com
Membership Programs	Jessy Blanchette	ve4jbb@gmail.com
Education	Roberto Urrea	va4.rul@gmail.com
Director	Jerry Volkens	jerryvolkers@hotmail.com
Past President	Colin Mantay	ve4cem@rac.ca
Public Information Officer....	Vacant	

### From The President -

Greetings to everyone! My sister has this saying she likes bringing up when things do not go as you had hoped - " May you live in interesting times". Well we most certainly are living in "interesting" times. Lest someone think I am making light of the situation, I sincerely hope everyone is staying close to home and safe. This is not a time to minimize the possible health effects. they are real and serious.

As a result of this we have had to cancel our April general meeting. Rest assured we are planning an alternative. Stay tuned to the WARC web site for more information. Our Hamfest in June also had to be cancelled. There was simply too much planning and arrangements which had to be done that could not be left to the last minute.

With the government and health authorities telling all of us to quarantine ourselves for a few weeks - could there be a positive effect in doing so? I'm not just talking about the positive health benefits, but the positive effect on our social circles, families and our own personal lives. We all have had this consumerist mentality beat into our heads over the decades by retailers ("You need this!"), by banks ("Why save for something you want when you can have it now!") and any other consumer focused entity out there!

Everyone has family members that every evening are driving their kids around to sporting events, or are planning their next vacation trip, working extra to pay off that vacation trip, etc. Perhaps this will be a time where everyone will be forced to sit quietly in their own homes with their immediate family\children and spend time with each other in a way that we as a society is quickly forgetting how.

A lot of our members have been around long enough to remember when stores were not open on Sundays, if you were on the bus and forgot you had to talk to someone you had no problem waiting to phone them when you got home, and then when you phoned them you got a busy signal, if you wanted to go on a trip or buy something more expensive you had to save up money over months or years to buy it.

Continued ....

### Our Vision

*To increase public awareness and respect for Amateur radio; to provide education and support in all aspects of the hobby to our members in a social atmosphere*

Contrast that to how things are now - some stores are open 24 hrs 7 days a week, cell phones mean everyone can be contacted at any time, busy signal? You got to be kidding me! I want that new couch now, that's OK, I'll pay it off over the next 3 years. Where does this all lead? What is our state of mind and lives?

Let's all take a deep breath, sit back, slow down, and let these "interesting" times have a positive outcome for us and our families, both physically and mentally.

73 and stay safe!

John VE4VJR

## *WARC Meeting Minutes March 2020*

Call to order  
7:30 PM.

### *Introductions*

- 28 present.

### *Presentation*

- Jerry Spring VE6TL from Calgary presented to us via Skype "Safety in the Ham Shack". Since he was presenting remotely we had the presentation before the business portion of the meeting.

50\50 Draw

- Winner - Dave VE4DJS, \$,9.00!

### *Previous meeting minutes*

Motioned to accept by Glenn VE4GWN, seconded by David VE4DLA.

### *Business*

Hamfest - Proceeding as planned.

- Speaker lineup shaping up.
- Raffle prizes lined up and MLG license applied for.
- Call for volunteers put out. Those wanting to volunteer should contact Dave VE4DJS.
- Question from Dick VE4HK asking if Robin's will be open during the Hamfest. David VE4DL said he has contacted them about that but has not heard back.

Summer Field Day - Have had preliminary discussions about it nothing in depth.

Greetings from Sylvia and Adam Romanchuk VE4SN.

Treasurer's report

- Davie VE4DL presented.
- All good. Have \$ 6,180.23 on hand.
- We have opened a \$ 5,500.00 Rainy Day Fund

in a high interest savings account which can be used for any significant needs the executive deems necessary such as self-insurance, major equipment or club building purchase, etc... This fund will be added to annually so it grows, and allows more opportunities for the future generations of WARC members.

### *Membership report*

- Jessy VE4JBB presented.
- 99 members currently, 16 of which are new licensed.

### *Education report*

- Roberto VA4RAU presented.
- 12 students in the current BSC class.

### *ARES report*

- Jeff VE4MBQ sent his regrets along with note to let anyone who is going to the spotter training must register with Jeff by Friday, March 13.

### *RAC report*

- One item of significance is that the ON government has passed legislation that ON Hams can now use their radios while driving.

### *DX report*

Jessy VE4JBB, David, VE4DL, John VE4VJR presented.

- South Orkney Islands DXpedition is over.
- This past weekend was the ARRL DX SSB contest and 2 weeks prior was the ARRL DX CW contest. A number of VE4s took part.
- This coming weekend is the British Commonwealth contest.

### *New Business*

Pietra informed everyone that Wtiold Kinsner from the U of M ARC is holding an Advanced class for their members. John VE4VJR will contact him asking if any WARC members would be able to attend as well.

Adjourned - 8:50 PM.

## *Winnipeg ARES Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ ve4mbq@rac.ca*

Twelve (12) Winnipeg ARES members and associates provided volunteer communications for Scouts Canada Klondike Derby 07, 08 MAR. The event was coordinated by Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ. Thanks to volunteer operators VE4s:

CLK, CKP, TRO, PXL, JFK, GWN, AJ, DXR, DBV, JAH, KIZ, KAZ.

Our 17 MAR General Meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns as was Spotter Training scheduled for 21 MAR in Fraserwood.

**The RCAF Run on the last Sunday in May is cancelled. The Manitoba Marathon, originally scheduled for Fathers' Day, is postponed to an unspecified date this fall.**

( You can read the Marathon Executive Director's statement here:

<https://manitobamarathon.mb.ca/2020/03/important-update/> )

Our next General Meeting 1900h TUE 21 APR will be on-line thru a meeting platform being investigated by the Executive, Winnipeg ARES members will be advised by e-mail.

**WARC Membership Update***By Jessy VE4JJB WARC Membership Chair*

For the 2019 to 2020 year the following is a current list of WARC members ....

Call Sign      Name

KS7Q            Parrish Andrews  
 VA4DJS        David Stewart  
 VA4EEF        Dan Flather  
 VA4HAM        Milan Lukes  
 VA4MBO        Myron Boisjoli  
 VA4RUL        Roberto Urrea  
 VA4RWT        Gary Goodman  
 VA4SMC        Scott Campbell  
 VA4WEB        Curt Fender  
 VA4XRY        Andrew McKay  
 VE1ZG         Doug Henry  
 VE4AAZ        William East  
 VE4ACX        Yorimasa Tsuji  
 VE4AHN        Kevin Podaima  
 VE4AHW        Frank Machovec  
 VE4AIV        Richard Lukes  
 VE4AJ         Calvin Winter  
 VE4AMS        Paul Reisdorf  
 VE4AND        Bert Andrews  
 VE4AQU        Richard Banack  
 VE4AUT        Henry Hessner  
 VE4BAW        Geoffrey Bawden  
 VE4BEF        Bill Fleury  
 VE4BN         Edwin Bethune  
 VE4BRT        Tim Burt  
 VE4CKP        Jim Coussau  
 VE4CKR        Kyle Crosswell  
 VE4DAR        David Rosner  
 VE4DFM        Don Menzies  
 VE4DJS        Dave Stimpson  
 VE4DKC        Michele Keizer  
 VE4DLA        David Latour  
 VE4DMW        Dean Weiten  
 VE4DRK        Dan Keizer  
 VE4DRW        Drew Kwartel  
 VE4DTD        David Dunlop  
 VE4DVT        Dave Terrick  
 VE4EA         Cary Rubenfeld  
 VE4EDE        Edward Evanko  
 VE4EDH        Eric Hope  
 VE4FTX        Charles York  
 VE4GAS        Grant Sesak  
 VE4GBA        George Anderson  
 VE4GCV        Gerald Volkers  
 VE4GHC        Gerard Campaign  
 VE4GMB        Greg Bilinsky  
 VE4GMT        Jim McKinley  
 VE4GWB        Garth Blumm  
 VE4GWN        Glen Napady  
 VE4GZ         Jim Griffiths  
 VE4HAY        Derek Hay  
 VE4HK         Dick Maguire  
 VE4HQ         Tom Blatch  
 VE4JBB        Jessy Blanchette  
 VE4JDH        Hamish Donaldson

VE4JLB        Lance Barber  
 VE4JRG        Jack Glenn  
 VE4JS         Jan Schippers  
 VE4JTS        Joan Santos  
 VE4KEN        Ken Kang  
 VE4KGB        Kim Blake  
 VE4KGG        Ken Kennedy  
 VE4KON        Brian Konopski  
 VE4KS         Kelly Stafekis  
 VE4LMK        Lee Kozak  
 VE4LRM        Luis Rosales  
 VE4LX         Tom Milan  
 VE4MAB        Mark Blumm  
 VE4MBQ        Jeff Dovyak  
 VE4MMB        Janice Behrens  
 VE4NSA        Stefan Wagener  
 VE4OV         Rick Lord  
 VE4PDX        Paul Driver  
 VE4PEH        Patricia Haertel  
 VE4PH         Peter Haertel  
 VE4PL         Ron Place  
 VE4PXL        Pietra Shirley  
 VE4QP         Ron Peasy  
 VE4RA         Rick Allan  
 VE4RAI        Robert Iwacha  
 VE4RCJ        Robert Jacobs  
 VE4RIC        Rick Shumila  
 VE4RLF        Roger Froebe  
 VE4RLK        Robert Keizer  
 VE4RTH        Bob Hirst  
 VE4RXL        Rod Lee  
 VE4SHS        Rob Striemer  
 VE4SS         Lawrence Kyle  
 VE4SYM        Susan Collings  
 VE4TB         Tom Adlard  
 VE4TLA        Chris Chatelain  
 VE4TML        Dave Tomlin  
 VE4TRO        Fred Collings  
 VE4TTC        Randy A. Willetts  
 VE4UA         Werner Schwager  
 VE4VJR        John Romanec  
 VE4WDZ        Wyatt Zacharias  
 VE4WMH        Wayne Harris  
 VE4YD         John Delaive  
 VE4YR         Frank Alberni  
 VE4ZIM        Kevin Zimmerman

**Cancellation**

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic the East Grand Forks Hamfest scheduled for April 25th in East Grand Forks has been **cancelled!**

Please check their Facebook page for future announcements including potentially re-scheduling the event for later this year.

<https://www.facebook.com/ForxAmateurRadioClub/>

## Spotlight On Jim Houston VE4QH

By David VE4DAR

What got you interested in Amateur Radio? “I took a 10-month course in Electronic Communications at what is now called Red River College. I got my ham licence in 1973 through the course because the electronics we learned was well beyond what was required for the test, and our CW was at 20 wpm. John Bell VE4OL was one of our instructors.”



Build your own station or buy commercial equipment? “I bought an Icom 22A with crystals. Then I got a programmable Icom. I’m still with Icom. I have a radio in my Rec Room, and a 35 foot tower. My mobile is a hand held.”

### Winnipeg Seniors Citizens Radio Club

VE4WSC is looking for digital copies of QST for the years 1975 - 1994 inclusive and 2005 - current date. As well as any years prior to 1950

We currently have the following in digital format.

QST issues from 1950 to 1974 inclusive plus QEX, NCJ & QST from 1995 to 2004 inclusive Handbook 2000 & 2005

**Any additions in Digital format would be appreciated.**

### What have you done to "promote amateur radio this week"

That line we credit to an old News stalwart, Peter Parker with using in his old VK1 and VK3 casts many years ago and it still stands true -WIA

Any contacts or moments that stick out in memory? “I didn’t have HF at home. My first contact was at RRC, where we had all the equipment. It was pretty exciting for a 23 year old to contact Norway, Russia, and Japan. Later, I talked with Spokane, Washington, on 2m by skip while driving.”

What have you gotten from amateur radio? “Over the years I’ve enjoyed making new contacts and new friends. My wife, Cathy VE4ZOE, got her licence after me. We took a radio to Hawaii, and in our travels across Canada. I’ve enjoyed talking with visitors to Winnipeg, and folks passing through.”

Any particular interest in Amateur Radio? “Now that I’m retired, I’m looking forward to setting up an HF station.”

Public Service? “Not specifically in Amateur Radio. I worked with the 911 Communication Centre and as an EMT for the Winnipeg Fire Department. Now I’m the Liaison Officer for the United Way with the Coats for Kids Program. (You can make a donation through any fire hall.)

Advice for new hams? We need to get the new hams involved right after they graduate. Rather than wait for them to get on the air by themselves, we might have to call them. I don’t like early check-ins on the nets, especially just before the net begins. It results in fewer operators on the net, so it just becomes a list with no activity.”

Future of Amateur Radio? “I think we are heading in the right direction by targeting young folks. How do we get them interested in our hobby? Perhaps we need to have more open houses; displays at events such as Folklorama; and at the malls.”

Thanks for this, Jim. It was fun meeting you over a root beer at A & W!

**print it on.co**  
PROFESSIONAL IMPRESSIONS CREATED HERE  
**204.899.3350**  
1798 St Matthews Ave  
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0A5

**Discount for  
“WARC”  
members**

Print It On is offering WARC members a 15% discount on any size qty of QSL cards.

Be sure to present your membership card.

## ***Radio Amateurs of Canada offers new Online Amateur Radio Courses***

For immediate release:

<https://www.rac.ca/radio-amateurs-of-canada-offers-new-online-amateur-radio-courses/>

In response to the current Covid-19 crisis, Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce that it is introducing two new online Amateur Radio courses so that individuals can upgrade their qualifications while continuing to practise social/physical distancing.

### **RAC Online Basic Amateur Radio Qualification Course:**

The course offers an introduction into the wonderful world of Amateur Radio and prepares students for their Basic Qualification Examination. It will be conducted with the assistance of the Annapolis Valley Amateur Radio Club (AVARC) of Nova Scotia.

### **RAC Maple Leaf Operator Online Advanced Qualification Course:**

The course is an excellent opportunity to upgrade your qualifications so that you will be able to run higher power and to operate your own repeater sites. The course is being offered at no charge to RAC Maple Leaf Operator Members – both current and future – who already have their Basic Amateur Radio Qualification.

Additional information:

### **RAC Online Basic Amateur Radio Qualification Course**

This course prepares students for the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) Basic Qualification Level Operator Certificate exam to operate on allocated Amateur Radio frequencies.

The course will use the GoToMeeting web-based service and will start on Thursday, April 16 and will finish in mid-June. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6 pm to 8:30 (1800 – 2030) Eastern Time (1900 – 2130 Atlantic Time) and Sunday afternoons 1 pm to 3:30 pm (1300 – 1530) Eastern Time (1400 – 1630 Atlantic Time).

The course instructor is Al Penney, VO1NO. Al was first licensed in 1977 and has been active in many areas of Amateur Radio including contesting, DXing, VHF/UHF weak signal, satellites, emergency communications and DXpeditioning. He has served as the President of six different Amateur Radio clubs in both Canada and the United States and currently chairs the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Band Planning Committee. Al has taught the Basic Qualification Amateur Radio Course since 1994.

**Cost:** The registration fee for the course is \$50 plus GST/HST. The cost of the Basic Study Guide is extra and an order link will be provided upon completion of payment.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.rac.ca/basic-radio-course/>

### **RAC Maple Leaf Operator Online Advanced Qualification Course**

The new RAC Online Advanced Qualification Course is an excellent opportunity to upgrade your qualifications so that you will be able to run higher power and to operate your own repeater sites.

The course will be offered at no charge to RAC Maple Leaf Operator Members – both current and future – who already have their Basic Amateur Radio Qualification including:

- Current RAC Maple Leaf Operator Members who have Basic certification
- Current RAC members who upgrade their memberships to become Maple Leaf Operator Members
- Amateurs who are not RAC members but who join RAC at the Maple Leaf Operator Member level

In order to offer maximum flexibility, we will be running two Advanced courses so students will be able to choose one of the following two options:

- Sunday afternoons from 3 pm to 5 pm ET
- Monday evenings from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm ET

The course will be 10 sessions in length and each session will be two hours long and it will run from the week of April 5 to the week of June 14.

The course instructor is Dave Goodwin, VE9CB. Dave has been an Amateur since 1975, is an active HF Contester and DXer and has many other interests in Amateur Radio. Since 1975, Dave has been teaching Basic and Advanced certification courses with the Fredericton (NB) Amateur Radio Club. He is also RAC's Atlantic Director.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.rac.ca/amateur-radio-courses/rac-online-advanced-course/>

Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA  
RAC President and Chair



## *Confessions of a Casual Contester - 2* *From the shack of David VE4DL*

I am not now, nor ever have been, a Contester. I don't see myself becoming a Contester either, if one defines the term to include round-the-clock operations, intravenous fluids and diapers, and frequent relays of cold, one-hand meals. Not my thing, at all. BUT.....

I am a friend of Cary VE4EA, and I've attended his training sessions for CW ops a few times. He's a sly one, that Cary; makes things easy and fun, not intimidating or scary. Gotta watch that. Anyway, I've also gone to his place for a couple of major CW contests, and while he listened and translated, I sent the replies. First time or two with a paddle, too slow, and last time with keyboard code. That was interesting. I also found I was picking up call signs and exchanges at something over 30wpm. That blew my mind – I consider myself a QRS operator, even after several years of casual work with the Straight Key Century Club. On a really good day I can run 20wpm but mostly I hear at 12-15.

So I thought about this a while, and decided to give this a try on my own. I had acquired a Vibrocube paddle for the Kenwood, and then I found a WinKeyer on a swap shop and collected that. It's very easy to set these up with the 590S, two wires only required. I programmed the black box with 3 buttons to match the exchange for ARRL DX CW contest, and waited.

So, here's the thing – I know what the other station should be sending: 'CQ DX call sign' or a variation, or 'QRZ', typically. Followed by '599 and a number' (their power out in watts). All I had to send was '599 MB'. Easy peasy, no? So one button is my 'call sign', another is '599 5NN MB' and the third is 'agn?' All I need to go.

I also installed N1MM+ on my laptop and with a couple of keystrokes had it set up for and talking to my Kenwood. This is great contest logging software that does a shyte-ton more than I need it to or can understand, but with Cary's tutoring I knew the minimum I needed.

Comes the day and I fire up on 20m and there's plenty of signals out there. I can hear CQ at probably 50wpm, but looked for ones where the call sign was copyable. Here's the trick: you don't need to copy it all at once, you can listen to the call repeatedly, adding characters as you understand them until you've got it all typed in. Then listen to several exchanges. The CQ station is al-

*Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more ...*

**Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...**

**Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.**

2217 Henderson Hwy, East St. Paul, MB  
(Just south of perimeter hwy)

Ph. (204)-783-1885 Fax (204) 779-7522  
Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

## *Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club*

**Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic with  
The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio club is**

**Closed until further notice**

**Access is only granted by  
special arrangements.**

**Please contact club President at**

**[ve4wsc@gmail.com](mailto:ve4wsc@gmail.com)**

ways sending the same info – listen until you have it all. Then start pushing your call sign button. I had mine set to send at 30, way above what my hand can manage. The delight is, I can play with these 30-40wpm stations using this method. I don't have to be a code warrior! Listen for your own call sign to come back. Push button 2. Listen for the caller to move on to another call sign, and hit 'Log It'. Done, you've logged your first DX CW contact! Run and tell your XYL! Pour a celebratory bevvy. Get back to the shack, there are plenty more to find. Operating casually with long breaks to actually earn a living, I still worked 98 stations on 3 bands, all at well above my usual comprehension speed. That's fun, peeps. But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all.

### **RAC/ARES NATIONAL EMCOMM FREQUENCIES**

<b>SSB</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Tactical</b>
75M - LSB	3.675 MHz	Alfa
40 M - LSB	7.135 MHz	Bravo
20 M - USB	14.135 MHz	Charlie
17 M - USB	18.135 MHz	Delta
15 M - USB	21.235 MHz	Echo
10 M - USB	28.235 MHz	Foxtrot
<b>CW</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Tactical</b>
80 M	3.535 MHz	Golf
40 M	7.035 MHz	Hotel
20 M	14.035 MHz	India
17 M	18.075 MHz	Juliette
15 M	21.035 MHz	Kilo
10 M	28.035 MHz	Lima
<b>Digital</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Tactical</b>
80M	3.596 MHz	Mike
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
20 M	14.096 MHz	Oscar
17 M	18.096 MHz	Papa
15 M	21.096 MHz	Quebec
10 M	28.096 MHz	Romeo

# 7 Contest Calendar

Extracted From

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

April 2020

IQRP Quarterly Marathon 0800Z, Apr 6  
to 2000Z, Apr 12

RSGB Hope QSO Party 0830Z-1000Z, Apr 6 (SSB)  
144 MHz Spring Sprint 1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 6  
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW  
1900Z-2030Z, Apr 6

ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Apr 7

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1000Z-1130Z, Apr 7 (CW)

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 8

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1130Z-1300Z, Apr 8 (FT4)

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Apr 8  
and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 8  
and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 9

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1300Z-1430Z, Apr 9 (SSB)

NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Apr 10

NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 10

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1430Z-1600Z, Apr 10 (CW)

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party 0000Z-2359Z, Apr 11

JIDX CW Contest 0700Z, Apr 11 to 1300Z, Apr 12

FTn DX Contest 1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12

F9AA Cup, PSK 1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon  
1200Z, Apr 11 to 2400Z, Apr 12

OK/OM DX Contest, SSB  
1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12

New Mexico QSO Party  
1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 12

Georgia QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 11 to 0400Z, Apr 12

North Dakota QSO Party  
1800Z, Apr 11 to 1800Z, Apr 12

Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest  
2100Z, Apr 11 to 2100Z, Apr 12

WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes  
1000Z-1200Z, Apr 12 (FT8)  
and 1200Z-1400Z, Apr 12 (RTTY)  
and 1400Z-1600Z, Apr 12 (PSK)  
and 1600Z-1800Z, Apr 12 (FT8)  
and 1800Z-2000Z, Apr 12 (RTTY)  
and 2000Z-2200Z, Apr 12 (PSK)

International Vintage Contest HF  
1200Z-1800Z, Apr 12

Hungarian Straight Key Contest 1500Z-1600Z, Apr 12

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  
0000Z-0200Z, Apr 13

RSGB Hope QSO Party  
0830Z-1000Z, Apr 13 (RTTY)

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1000Z-1130Z, Apr 14 (SSB)

222 MHz Spring Sprint  
1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 14

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Apr 15

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 15

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1130Z-1300Z, Apr 15 (CW)

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Apr 15  
and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 15  
and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 16

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB  
1900Z-2030Z, Apr 15

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1300Z-1430Z, Apr 16 (FT4)

NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Apr 17

NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 17

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1430Z-1600Z, Apr 17 (SSB)

Holyland DX Contest 2100Z, Apr 17 to 2100Z, Apr 18

ES Open HF Championship 0500Z-0559Z, Apr 18  
and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 18  
and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 18  
and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 18

Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest  
0600Z, Apr 18 to 0559Z, Apr 19

YU DX Contest 0700Z, Apr 18 to 0659Z, Apr 19

QRP to the Field 0800-1800 local, Apr 18

CQMM DX Contest 0900Z, Apr 18 to 2359Z, Apr 19

Texas State Parks on the Air 1400Z, Apr 18  
to 0200Z, Apr 19  
and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 19

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19

EA-QRP CW Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Apr 18 (10-20m)  
and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 18 (40-80m)  
and 0700Z-0900Z, Apr 19 (40m)  
and 0900Z-1200Z, Apr 19 (20-10m)

Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 18 to 0500Z, Apr 19  
and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 19

Feld Hell Sprint 1800Z-2159Z, Apr 18

ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB 1800Z-2359Z, Apr 19

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 1900Z-2400Z, Apr 19

RSGB Hope QSO Party 0830Z-1000Z, Apr 20 (CW)

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1000Z-1130Z, Apr 21 (RTTY)

SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Apr 22

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 22

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1130Z-1300Z, Apr 22 (SSB)

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Apr 22  
and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 22  
and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 23

432 MHz Spring Sprint 1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 22

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1300Z-1430Z, Apr 9 (CW)

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data  
1900Z-2030Z, Apr 23

NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Apr 24

NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 24

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1430Z-1600Z, Apr 24 (FT4)

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital  
0001Z, Apr 25 to 2359Z, Apr 26

SP DX RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 25 to 1200Z, Apr 26

Helvetia Contest 1300Z, Apr 25 to 1259Z, Apr 26

Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26  
and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26

BARTG Sprint 75 1700Z-2059Z, Apr 26

RSGB Hope QSO Party 0830Z-1000Z, Apr 27 (SSB)

QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Apr 27  
and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 27  
and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 28

RSGB FT4 Contest Series 1900Z-2030Z, Apr 27

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1000Z-1130Z, Apr 28 (CW)

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Apr 29

RSGB Hope QSO Party  
1130Z-1300Z, Apr 29 (RTTY)

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Apr 29  
and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 29  
and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 30

UKEICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, Apr 29

RSGB Hope QSO Party 1300Z-1430Z, Apr 30 (SSB)

\*\*\* Good Luck In The Contest \*\*\*

## Tall Towers

Submitted by Derek VE4HAY

You may have seen these two towers on your drive to the Fargo Hamfest. They are 5 miles apart between Fargo & Grand Forks. They are the 4th & 5th tallest man made objects in the world. Only an Amateur Radio operator would care about this fact.

The KVLV-TV mast (formerly the KTHI-TV mast) is a 2,063-foot-tall (629 m) television-transmitting mast in



Blanchard, Traill County, North Dakota, United States, used by Fargo station KVLV-TV channel 11. Completed during 1963, it was the tallest structure in the world until succeeded by the Warsaw radio mast during 1974, which collapsed in 1991, again making the KVLV-TV mast the tallest structure in the world until the Burj Khalifa exceeded it in 2008. It remains the fourth-tallest

structure in the world (since the construction of the Tokyo Skytree and the Shanghai Tower), the tallest structure in the Western Hemisphere, and the tallest broadcasting mast in the world.

The mast is located 3 miles (4.8 km) west of Blanchard, North Dakota, halfway between Fargo and Grand Forks. It became the tallest artificial structure, and the first man-made structure to exceed 2,000 feet (610 m) in height, upon the completion of its construction on August 13, 1963.

Owned by Gray Television of Atlanta, Georgia, the tower broadcasts at 356 kW on channel 44 for television station KVLV-TV (channel 11 PSIP, an NBC/CBS affiliate) which is based in Fargo. The tower provides a broadcast area of roughly 9,700 square miles (25,000 km<sup>2</sup>), which is a radius of about 55.6 miles (89.5 km).

When the mast was built the call letters of the television station for which it was built were changed to KTHI, the "HI" referring to the height of the mast. The top is reachable by a two-person service elevator (built by Park Manufacturing of Charlotte, North Carolina) or ladder.

The KRDK-TV mast is a television transmitting tower in Traill County, North Dakota, United States. At 2060

ft (628 m), it is the fifth-tallest structure in the world, shorter by 3 ft (1 m) than the KVLV-TV mast, which stands 5 miles northeast.

Located 3.5 miles (6 km) northeast of Galesburg, North Dakota, it was completed in 1966, to replace the station's previous mast, a 1,085-foot (331 m) tower 15 miles (25 km) northeast of Valley City, North Dakota (or southwest of Pillsbury) which was sold to KOVC, an AM radio station.

The antenna transmits at 100 kW for KRDK-TV (formerly KXJB-TV) of Valley City/Fargo; the station and tower are owned by Major Market Broadcasting.

The mast has fallen and been rebuilt twice. The first collapse occurred at 9:08 A.M. February 14, 1968 when the rotor of a Marine helicopter severed some guy-wires; all four aboard the helicopter were killed in the mishap.[1] The television station was off the air for eight days, finally resuming broadcasts from their previous (KOVC) tower. A replacement mast of the same height as the one destroyed was completed in four and a half months.



Continued ...



## *Manitoba Repeater Society*

The Manitoba Repeater Society operates and maintains a linked repeater system across southern Manitoba, including Winnipeg.

If you are a user of any of these repeaters, we urge you to support the group by becoming a member.

VE4MAN - Starbuck, VE4CDN - Morris,  
VE4PLP - Portage, VE4MRS - Bruxelles,  
VE4GIM - Gimli, VE4MIL - Milner Ridge  
VE4EMB - Hadashville, VE4FAL - Falcon Lake,  
VE4WPG - Winnipeg, VE4VJ - Winnipeg, VE4WRS  
- Autopatch & IRLP link Winnipeg

Links to repeaters in Ontario, Brandon, Selkirk and soon to be the Dauphin & area.

[info@mb-repeater-society.ca](mailto:info@mb-repeater-society.ca)  
<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety>  
**MRS Memberships Expired on December 31**  
**You Can Renew Today On-Line**

### **The Manitoba Repeater Society Annual General Meeting**

## **Has been Postponed to a later date**

### *Tall Towers continued.....*

The second mast fell during an ice storm which hit the area on April 6, 1997, subjecting it to wind gusts of 70 mph and causing at least four inches (100 mm) of ice to accumulate on the structure, resulting in the structure's failure at 6:09 P.M.. Cable programming was resumed by 8:34 and broadcasts by 3 P.M. the following afternoon through coordination with other affiliates; a 735-foot (224 m) temporary tower was completed and resumed broadcasts by July 10. This tower, known as KXJB-TV Mast 2, still stands next to the full-height mast.

Work began on replacement of the full-height mast with a more durably-built structure on April 1, 1998, and had reached the tower's previous height by July 30. That day members of the construction crew affixed a four-foot (1.2 m) flagpole to the top of the tower, making the structure's height effectively 2064 ft (629 m), or one foot higher than the KVLV mast (the flagpole was later removed). Broadcasting for Channel 4 was switched to the new mast on August 15.

*The Newscaster* is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**  
Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - [ve4mab@outlook.com](mailto:ve4mab@outlook.com)

### VHF Nets .....

**MRS Nets - 147.390 Mhz +  
Sundays & Thursdays at 9:00 pm**

This net covers Winnipeg and the MRS linked repeater system, and includes various announcements on amateur radio activities and "Dick's Swap & Shop"

**The Morning Net 147.390 Mhz+  
Weekdays at 9:00 am**

This net covers Winnipeg and hams of all ages are welcome to join in this net which is always a lot of fun!

**The Newbie Net 147.390 Mhz+  
Saturdays at 10:00 am**

A net for new hams to participate in a Net and get on the air!

**D-Star Nets on the VE4WDR System using**

**UHF 444.575+ DV Port B and/or  
VHF 145.490- DV Port C**

**TransCanada D-Star Net - Fridays at 8:00 pm**  
On "Free Star" Reflector 5 ( XRF005BO ) **New**  
Also on VE4DMR Timeslot 2 Talkgroup 302050

**HamNation D-Star Net - Wednesday at 9:15pm**  
On "DPlus" Reflector 14 ( REF014CL )

**Ozark Mtn. D-Star Net - Sundays at 8:00 pm**  
On "DPlus" Reflector 1 ( REF001CL )  
More nets <http://www.dstarinfo.com/nets.aspx>

### HF Nets .....

**MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 Khz  
Daily at 7:00 PM Local Time (CT)**

**Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz  
Daily at 0130 UTC**

**Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7055 Khz  
Daily at 2330 UTC**

**Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7055 Khz  
Daily at 0230 UTC**

**MB Wx Net 3743 Khz  
Daily at 8:30 Local Time (CT)**